

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1 to 36 (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) A method of treating a disease associated with ICACC protein activity in the airways of a patient comprising administering to the patient in need of treatment an effective amount of an agent to modulate the activity of the ICACC protein.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the disease associated with ICACC protein activity in the airways is selected from the group consisting of atopic allergy or asthma.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the agent down-regulates the activity of the ICACC protein.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the disease associated with ICACC protein activity in the airways is cystic fibrosis.

41. (previously presented) The method according to any of claims 37 to 39, wherein the agent causes a decrease in bronchial hyperresponsiveness.

42. (previously presented) The method according to any of claims 37 to 39, wherein the agent causes a decrease in inflammatory cells in the airways of the patient.

43. (previously presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein the cells are selected from the group consisting of mast cells, eosinophils, lymphocytes and epithelial cells.

44. (previously presented) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40, wherein the agent causes an improvement in pulmonary function.

45. (withdrawn) A method of alleviating symptoms associated with inflammatory bowel disease comprising administering to patients in need of such treatment and effective amount of an agent to down-regulate the activity of an ICACC protein.

46. (currently amended) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 ~~or 45~~, wherein the ICACC protein is human ICACC-1 (SEQ ID NO: 6) or ICACC-2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).

47. (previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the human ICACC-1 protein comprises SEQ ID NO: 6 or a protein with at least about 95 percent sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 6.

48. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 46, wherein the human ICACC-2 protein comprises SEQ ID NO: 4 or a protein with at least about 95 percent sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 4.

49. (withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 or 45, wherein the agent is a chloride channel inhibitor.

50. (withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 or 45, wherein the agent is an aminosterol.

51. (currently amended) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 ~~or 45~~, wherein the agent is an antibody which specifically binds to either human ICACC-1 or ICACC-2.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

53. (previously presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein the ICACC protein is human ICACC-1 (SEQ ID NO: 6) or ICACC-2 (SEQ ID NO: 4).

54. (withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 or 45, wherein the agent is a nucleic acid molecule which is anti-sense to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a fragment thereof.

55. (currently amended) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 ~~or 45~~, wherein the agent is administered by inhalation.

56. (previously presented) The method according to claim 55, wherein the agent is administered by an inhalation device.

57. (previously presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein the agent is administered by a metered dose inhaler.

58. (previously presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein the agent is administered by a dry powder inhaler.

59. (currently amended) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 ~~or 45~~, wherein the agent is administered parenterally.

60. (previously presented) The method according to claim 59, wherein the agent is administered intravenously.

61. (currently amended) The method according to any of claims 37 to 40 ~~or 45~~, wherein the patient is human.